(e) and (f) In pursuance of the commitment of the Government to Universalize the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme as envisaged in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), the Scheme has been expanded twice in the year 2005-06 & 2006-07. The Government has recently approved the continued implementation and third phase expansion of the ICDS Scheme during 11th plan, for 792 additional projects with 2.13 lakhs additional Anganwadi Centres and 77102 mini anganwadi centres with special focus on coverage of SC/ST and minority population.

Pre-packaged and micronutrient fortified meals for women and children

1540.SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to provide pre-packaged and micronutrient fortified meals to eight crore children in the age group 0-8, as well as women;

(b) if so, the details worked out, so far;

(c) whether there is any opposition to this project;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the budgetary allocation made and utilized for this programme during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The Intregrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme covers the children below six years of age and pregnant women and lactating mothers.

As per the guidelines contained in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have the flexibility to select the type of food to be provided as supplementary nutrition to Pregnant & Lactating Mothers and children below six years of age. Supplementary Nutrition continues to be provided, as per existing guidelines, and as per directions of the Apex Court, to all Pregnant and Lactating mothers and children below 6 years of age coming to the Anganwadi Centre. There is no centralised procurement of supplementary nutrition. Government of India provides funds for supplementary nutrition programme as per schematic norms.

The Government has decided that the existing pattern of providing supplementary nutrition will continue for the present The Government has also decided that arrangements be made for serving hot cooked meals in all Anganwadis/ Mini-Anganwadis under the ICDS Scheme within the next two years. The Government has also constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to recommend measures to expedite switch over to hot cooked meals under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, in consultation with the State Governments.

(e) The budget allocation under the ICDS Scheme for current Year 2008-2009 is Rs.6300.00 crore out of which Rs 3654.88 crore has been released to States/UTs for implementation of the Scheme till 10.12.2008.

Revised implementation frame-work for ICDS

1541. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: